

GLASS PIPES

FOR CONVEYING WATER AND OTHER FLUIDS.

THE deleterious nature of some of the metallic pipes now in use for the conveyance of water for domestic purposes, has of late strongly attracted the notice of the public, and should lead them to regard with favour Messrs. Swinburne's glass pipes, advertised in our paper. Glass, especially that kind which is made without metallic flux, is impervious to water for an almost indefinite period of time, and is therefore an admirable medium for the circulation and retention of water.

Although this quality has been long appreciated, the difficulty of making joints on glass tubes of a durable or effective nature has prevented their use. Any cementing substance of a high temperature, such as solder, would crack the glass, and most non-metallic cements of a saline or resinous quality bear little pressure, and are generally soluble. Messrs. Swinburne consider this difficulty is now entirely obviated, by their process in which a metallic collar or band is firmly fixed at the end of a glass pipe, and incorporated with its exterior substance. By this means glass pipes can be most easily joined together.

The price for the pipes, including the joints, is less than that of lead, and they are made of curved or rectangular shapes to suit the positions in which they may be required.

Books.

Letter to the Trustees of the National Gallery.
By Colonel RAWDON, M.P. London: Ridgway, 1851.

COLONEL RAWDON calls the trustees to account pretty sharply, for not taking steps to obtain more accommodation for bequests of works of art, and for permitting the injury which is being done to the pictures in their present position. He says,—

"Let the matter be but fairly explained in the House of Commons thus:—We find an error has been committed in placing our national collection where it is. That the increasing requirements of London have made the position worse than it was when first selected. We find that the building is also far from sufficient, neither permitting classification nor arrangement, and in other respects unsatisfactory. That with such evidence before us of the dangers arising to the pictures, we are not justified by those who may come after us, in recommending their remaining longer in Trafalgar-square. That however convenient of access it is, the inconvenience of going a little farther off is nothing to the evil of deterioration which the pictures now undergo. That we have not the means (putting climate aside) of adequately enlarging the building from time to time, as would be required. That we think a large portion of the building should be devoted to a British school. That those fine Rubenses which are at Whitehall, and the Cartoons at Hampton Court should form part of our national collection; but that it is neither safe, or if safe, there is not room now to allocate them. We believe, also, that patriotic individuals are deterred from leaving or giving pictures to the nation, from the idea (be it just or not) that their pictures would be endangered. Under these circumstances, we hope that you, as representatives of the people, will enable us to make provision for them elsewhere, in a building worthy of this great country, and becoming an object so connected with the gratification and enlightenment of the people. In order to preserve these treasures of art as long as human skill and foresight can do so, we see that it is essential to remove them somewhat from the focus of our great capital."

The colonel then recommends, as the place best suited for the purpose, the position first suggested in *THE BUILDER*, namely, the site of Kensington Palace. According to the best authorities, the pictures are rapidly depreciating in their present locality; and this shows the necessity for an immediate consideration of the question.

Chemistry of the Crystal Palace: a Popular Account of the Chief Materials employed in its Construction. By THOMAS GRIFFITHS, late Professor in St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and Author of "Chemistry of the Four Ancient Elements," &c. Parker, West Strand, 1851.

ESSENTIALLY this is a lucid treatise on glass and iron; but there are various other materials used in the construction of the "palace of glass," besides either the glass which its names recognise or the iron which they ought equally to recognise: indeed, out of fifty-six ascertained "elements of nature"—as we must not only call them but religiously regard them for fear of the criticism of those only conversant with school books of chemistry—exactly one-half of the number are employed in the construction of the Hyde Park building. The author's subject is, therefore, in one respect, rather an extensive one, but iron, glass, and wood are the chief materials, the first and last not being "elements," but resolvable into them. A great portion of the present little treatise is directly useful to the architect, engineer, and builder; and, indeed, even the more curious and less practical details are indirectly useful; for no one can have a correct idea of these materials unless he be acquainted with the more curious as well as the more useful portion of their history and phenomena.

The Newspaper Press Directory, containing full particulars relative to each Journal published in the United Kingdom and the British Isles, together with a complete Guide to the Newspaper Press of each County, &c. Third edition; entirely revised. By C. MITCHELL; and published by him at his advertising office, Red Lion-court, Fleet-street.

THIS publication is the only one of its class, so far as we are aware, and it certainly constitutes one of the most readable *Directories* we ever dipped into. The peculiarities and excellencies, as well as the defects, of the various journals, are hit off with an emollient truthfulness evidently derived from close and intelligent examination, and continued observance of the course through which each paper runs. We find ourselves, of course, reflected in this mirror of the press, and it is pleasant to perceive that we have no ugly deformity to answer for—as some of even our ablest contemporaries have,—and, therefore, and for other reasons, we do believe this to be a truthful mirror, without any visible twist of its own to distort the visages represented in it. There is a considerable mass of miscellaneous information as to the press, besides the Directory itself, and a dissertation on the law of newspapers.

Miscellaneous.

CONVERSAZIONE AT SOCIETY OF ARTS.—The first of the proposed series was held last week in the Adelphi, and was attended by several of the distinguished foreigners at present in London, by the agents of the different foreign exhibitors, by some of the Royal commissioners, the executive committee, and a very large number of members and friends. Nearly half the visitors were ladies. By permission of Col. Jones, the band of the Royal Artillery was in attendance. The large room of the society was decorated with pictures, flowers and flowering shrubs, etchings, objects of art and manufacture, lithographs, &c. Refreshments were liberally supplied, and the overflowing company appeared to enter fully into the spirit of their agreeable *réunion*.

ENFRANCHISEMENT OF COPYHOLDS.—The Bill brought in by Mr. Mullings and Mr. Coles, to extend the Acts for commutation of manorial rights, and for the gradual enfranchisement of lands of copyhold and customary tenure, proposes that, on application to the Copyhold Commissioners by the lord or by two tenants of any manor, the commissioners are to ascertain, by means of a valuer to be appointed by the lord, and a tenants' valuer, the value of heriots, reliefs, and the lord's rights to timber growing on the lands within

the manor. Where the lands to be enfranchised are subject to arbitrary fines, or fines on improved value, or to tithe or other fines, the consideration to be paid for such enfranchisement will be ascertained as by the Lands Clauses Consolidation Act, with reference to lands taken for undertakings or works of a public nature, viz., by two valuers, or by an umpire agreed on by such valuers. To the valuation made there will be added as a compensation of any quit or other rents payable to the lord in respect of such copyhold lands, a sum equal to twenty-eight years' purchase in the amount of such annual quit or other rents. Valuers are recommended to take into account the probable increase in value by the enfranchisement itself.

THE INHABITED HOUSE DUTY.—By the new Act, if it pass as printed, the window duty is to be repealed from 5th April last, and the new house-tax substituted from that date as an assessed tax, under management of the Inland Revenue Commissioners. It has even been officially directed, it is said, that the assessors be instructed not to assess the window duty for the current year. The new bill, however, according to Lord Duncan, cannot be carried into act before the 5th of October. Where the Government may be by that time it is hard to say. We cannot believe, moreover, that they will allow the window-tax to lapse until they have secured the house-tax.

PROSPERITY OF BIRMINGHAM.—The guardians of the poor have sold by auction a portion of some land which cost, in 1824, only 900*l.*, for no less than 5,000*l.* Much other property, including the Infant Poor Asylum and the old workhouse, remains to be disposed of, and such is the demand for property, that it is supposed that the proceeds will defray the cost of the new workhouse, now in course of erection for 1,500 inmates. Pauperism itself, however, is also said to be undergoing a remarkable diminution.

ANTIQUITIES OF THE CLIFF AT WINTERTON.—Whilst some labourers were excavating on the estate of Mr. W. H. Drifill, they cut across deep-laid foundations and a tessellated pavement of Roman workmanship. The floors are of the richest and most complicated designs, and contain representations of Orpheus playing on the harp and charming the beasts around him, viz., the lion, the stag, the bear, the boar, the pegasus, the dog, the elephant, and the fox; of Ceres, with emblematic ears of corn; and of a nymph, with the cornucopia; besides a great variety of chainwork, knots, frets, vases, and other ornaments, in five appropriate colours.—*Eastern Counties Herald*.

AMENDMENT OF COMPETITIONS.—It will be seen that the meeting called to consider this subject for the 23rd, is postponed till June 6th. Earl de Grey, as president of the Institute of Architects, has issued cards for a conversation for the 23rd, which perhaps accounts for the change. Mr. Tite will probably take the chair at the meeting in question.*

THE TIMBER DUTIES.—By Treasury order of 16th ult., the alteration of duties in accordance with resolution of House of Commons (since confirmed by Act of Parliament), on the usual condition of parties abiding the ultimate decision of Parliament, was directed by their lordships to come into operation from that date inclusive. It has been decided that the new and reduced rates of duty only are leviable on such timber and wood goods as had not been cleared on payment of duty and delivered until after the resolutions of the House of Commons came into operation.

WIDENING OF PARK-LANE.—We are told that the Commissioners of Woods and Forests have decided upon widening Park-lane from Oxford-street to Grosvenor-gate, to the extent of 8 feet. This desirable step has been taken on the petition of the inhabitants, who have been required by the Commissioners to pay half the expense incurred. It is to be hoped that this thoroughfare will now be paved. Its present condition is not very creditable to the authorities.

* In our paragraph on this subject last week, the word *as* was printed for *on*, which altered the sense; but the error was probably obvious to most persons.